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83-1088/1

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9 September 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

[REDACTED]
DCI Representative for NSSD-1-83

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SUBJECT: Lack of Progress in NSSD-1-83 (Technology Transfer) [REDACTED]

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1. The NSSD on technology transfer policy commissioned by the President is in the doldrums, and cannot be expected to fulfill the President's needs if allowed to continue along its current path. Several reasons for the current situation are outlined below. In my view, the only hope for reviving the NSSD is for Judge Clark to take strong action through the NSC. Some recommendations along this line are also presented below. [REDACTED]

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2. The problems stem from both organizational and personnel shortfalls. From an organizational standpoint, the original concept was to have a senior level steering committee overseeing three working groups: policy, organizations, and special issues. The steering group was to provide the overall direction for the study. The organizations group was to examine the role of each agency and find areas of overlap, gaps, problems, etc. The special issues group was to address issues such as relationships with academia in high technology research and the release of DoD-sponsored R&D through government publications. The policy group was to take the recommendations from the other groups and establish the Administration's policy position. [REDACTED]

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3. NSC oversight for the NSSD was assigned to Dr. Weiss [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] But at about the time the working group meetings began, a reorganization within the NSC left Dr. Weiss without a portfolio, further detracting from his capabilities. The steering group, which he chaired, was shortly thereafter "combined" with the policy group. In fact, the steering group was dropped, its functions were not assumed by the policy group. Therefore, the study has had no overall direction since. [REDACTED]

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4. The organizations working group, chaired first by [REDACTED] and now by TTAC's Bob Price got off to a good start, but for a number of reasons has stalled. First, with the bickering going on over the renewal of the Export Administration Act, there is great reluctance to identify organizational problems, especially those dealing with enforcement. Instead, the members are

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concentrating on their initial charge from the steering group to examine each agency's role, and have bogged down in minutia. Bob has tried to direct the group to address problems, but with the reluctance to do so and the lack of a steering group to redirect their thinking, the efforts have failed.

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5. The special issues group has been led by OSTP, and has suffered through three chairmen. They have generated a lot of paper, but not in a direction helpful for policy formulation. Again, the lack of a steering group has been a severe hindrance. The special issues group has not met for some time.

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6. The policy group, lacking guidance from a steering group but more importantly lacking problems and issues from the other groups, has simply been generating broad policy statements. These statements simply reaffirm our interest in controlling technology, and endorse present bureaucratic mechanisms and policies.

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7. You may wish to discuss the NSSD progress with Judge Clark. In my view, it would take strong action by him through the NSC to get the NSSD moving again. The steering group needs to be revived, but under much stronger NSC leadership. And the steering group needs to dictate a set of problems to be addressed, rather than hope a "bottom-up" study will recognize problems and recommend solutions. For example, we see the following as serious problems that need to be addressed in the NSSD.

- Customs and Commerce inability to work together both inside and outside the US on export enforcement.
- Coordinated US positions on list review negotiations.
- Release of militarily significant technology through NTIS and NASA channels.
- Access to computer data bases containing sensitive technologies.

Unfortunately, under the current structure, these issues will not be addressed.

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